

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
September 21, 2016
City Council Chambers

A Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Andrew Celentano at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Susan Hudson, and Chairman Andrew Celentano.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Osborne.

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt and Chief Deputy City Clerk Jane Howie

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Motion by M. Indyke, second by C. Wenzel, to accept the August 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: C. Wenzel, M. Indyke, S. Hudson, and Chairman A. Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Osborne. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public Comments: None.
2. Commission Comments:

J. Osborne arrived @ 7:13 PM.

TRANSMITTALS: (no discussion or action requested)

1. Woodstock to consider Route 47 crosswalks – Northwest Herald, August 24, 2016
The Commission is very excited about this project, but a bit alarmed at the high cost of construction. C. Wenzel said ½ million dollars for four walks is not what she thought it would be. J. Osborne thought perhaps the McHenry County would be willing to work with the City of Woodstock and find a way to help out with this project. He added that the McHenry County Sheriff's Department uses the county fair buildings for a huge auction. If the county has some money, it would be great to partner with them. J. Van Landuyt talked to Scott from the County; he said to send a letter, which the city will do – with regard to a crosswalk near Jewel / Osco on Country Club Road. Commission members commented that they constantly witness people crossing Route 47; it's very dangerous and scary to experience.
2. Why self-driving trucks may be the next big thing on the road – Time, 9/12-19, 2016

- A. Celentano talked about trucks driving on the interstates with two or three tandems. He heard they came up with a tandem of 25 trucks to be used on super highways. The front cab tells each truck when to turn, etc.
- S. Hudson said they saw a semi-truck turned on its side that appeared to have fallen off a roundabout in Wisconsin. Drivers need to be cautious and pay close attention when going through a roundabout. It's important to maintain a safe speed.
- C. Wenzel said the roundabout in Palatine is actually oval, not round. A. Celentano said near Plank Road there's a very small roundabout. It's nicely designed but it appears to be too tiny to accommodate the large trucks that travel on Route 47 in that area.
- J. Osborne said that trucks take a toll on roads, and many truck drivers are on shift for much more than 8 hours per day. He also noted that Woodstock doesn't have any rest stops or weight stations for over the road truck drivers. He's looking forward to self-driving trucks.
3. Tractor for modern farm features everything but the farmer – Northwest Herald, 9/6/16
S. Hudson said many farmers look forward to driving their tractors; she thinks they'd be sad if there were self-driving tractors and farmers couldn't drive their tractors any longer. C. Wenzel said John Deere tractors & Monsanto have GPS, and locked satellite equipment. The farmer is not allowed to tamper with these items. J. Osborne said technology is showing up in so many areas now, such as driverless taxi cabs. Uber is doing a pilot on this out east. The Commissioners enjoy reading these articles that A. Celentano shared.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Continued discussion about crossing IL Rt. 47 (bicycle/pedestrians)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pavement Management Task Force Report (bring your copy to the meeting)
J. Van Landuyt said this was on the City Council Agenda last night, 9/20/16, for discussion. This current fiscal year there will be an amendment to the budget to add Reclamite, which must be added to pavement within two years after roads have been paved. Reclamite will add up to 5 years of life to the road's surface. Crystal Lake has already been using this product with positive results. The City will start doing their engineering twice each year to enhance the program.

J. Van Landuyt said there will be a joint bid with three to four other communities for the crack sealing project. This year's cost was \$0.33 per lineal foot vs \$0.40 per lineal foot from years past. The City saved approximately \$35,000 which is money that be added to street resurfacing. The City is still getting together with other municipalities to discuss what's going on in our communities and to determine what is working vs. what's not. Many communities are dealing with the same issues as Woodstock. C. Wenzel really likes the idea of communities sharing equipment & machinery. City Council will be having a special workshop to assist in prioritizing road work going forward. The City gets calls from residents complaining about the condition of the roads and to find out when certain areas will be repaired. The City will determine if it's more cost effective to do an entire subdivision at one time, as well as if it's more cost-effective to do more pavement management and/or crack sealing. What's driving our priorities? This will be

discussed at the City Council workshop, along with funding. How much is needed and available each year for street maintenance and resurfacing projects? Staff also wants to discuss weight restrictions, as some heavy loads travel City streets at times and have caused damage. As J. Osborne previously stated, Woodstock does not have any vehicle weigh scales/stations, and there are a lot of trucks on local roads, not only on state highways. M. Indyke asked if the City would buy into portable scales. J. Van Landuyt said some businesses look at that unfavorably, and it may affect new business. Should local roads have more weight limits? If so, this needs to be done without causing businesses to suffer.

Pavement Management Report includes some labels for pavement and their condition; such as 'failed', which does not adequately reflect the true condition of the pavement. Many of the terms should be re-named so that the report is easier to understand. It's also important to properly convey what the report means so that residents are well informed. J. Van Landuyt talked about some of the meetings that the group recently had with other communities. The Task Force discussed the sharing of equipment; such as a paint striping machine, or crack sealing; the group talked about starting out small with these projects. The City wants to make sure that Public Works keeps is aware of what other opportunities may be available in the future; such as City employees doing some of this work, instead of hiring contractors for many jobs.

J. Van Landuyt report that the City is having soil borings done; it appears that some roads that were put in 20-25 years ago were not installed properly. M. Indyke said soil boring is a great idea. J. Van Landuyt said that over the years, the City has upped its requirement for asphalt. In the next fiscal year the City will probably implement the prioritization provided by the Council at an upcoming workshop. The report can't be followed exactly, so it's very important to prioritize.

In addition, it appears that garbage trucks are causing a lot of damage to local streets, partly because of their weight, partly because of the frequent stops and starts. In some communities garbage trucks can only drive down one side of the street. The City will discuss this with MDC Environmental and gather information.

J. Van Landuyt said the City is televising storm sewers prior to resurfacing projects to determine what repairs are needed before paving is done. The Department of Public Works is following up on right-of-way opening permits from the past year in order to protect the City's infrastructure. For example, there's uneven pavement on E. Judd Street near the fire station where there was a water main break repaired by a utility company. Because of when the repair was done, the follow-up inspection didn't occur on a timely basis, and the area was never properly leveled.

J. Osborne said as we move forward it's important to change some practices when new information is available. Weigh the risks; what regulatory hurdles are there? J. Van Landuyt said the City ran into some regulatory issues with IDOT; some paperwork, some timing. There was some money left over from the resurfacing project, so some of this money will be used, along with monies from the general fund to purchase and install the Reclamite, as it is believed to be very beneficial. There are other products out there, so it's important to do our research and keep on top of it the situation.

Some of these products haven't been around for very long, so there had been some hesitancy to give it a try. One has to be ready to go all in or sit back and watch what

others are doing and what the outcome is. J. Osborne said it's really difficult if something fails to openly discuss it. It's good to have a game plan in mind; it's only a matter of time before we try new things. C. Wenzel said she drives down some roads that are really horrible in the Village of Bull Valley. She's glad the City is taking a forward approach with this.

A. Celentano asked if there are testing labs that can report on these products to determine if they're beneficial. J. Van Landuyt said there are a lot of variables, and some are due to the weather. Sales people will try to sell you anything, so you have to do some of the research yourself. A. Celentano recalls that the Task Force started in Cary; which is involved with the Lake County Task Force. The municipalities get together for hydrant painting and other tasks. Would McHenry County be interested in getting involved? They'd be a good addition. A. Celentano talked about the guy that came up with mixing beet juice with road salt to be used during snow storms.

2. Update of Master Bicycle Plan – Chapter 2

A. Celentano has some wordsmithing that he'll discuss with J. Van Landuyt. He asked if the Commissioners had any comments. C. Wenzel said on Page 8, the second paragraph, "Currently there are no trails ..." this needs to be updated. The Commission talked about different reasons to bicycle; recreation vs form of transportation. J. Osborne said we could find some stats that show how bicycle riding has increased over the years. C. Wenzel talked about little electric bikes that more and more people are using; and they fit on a bike path / trail. M. Indyke said they don't need a license plate and you don't need a driver's license to drive them. J. Van Landuyt said there could be restrictions on using a motorized vehicle on the bike path. J. Osborne will look into other language to assist in updating this section. M. Indyke believes there's a lack of education. S. Hudson said enforcement is very important. A. Celentano said a lot of this information is from 1997. New stats need to be obtained so this Plan can be updated. Regulations / Enforcements should be a major category to include the need for reflectors, lights on bikes, lights and/or reflectors on bicycle riders. C. Wenzel said there have been a lot of accidents where bicyclists crash into open car doors. A. Celentano said some people are riding bikes because they're prohibited from driving a vehicle or restricted from obtaining a driver's license. Many millennials are deciding to delay obtaining a driver's license. A. Celentano said the Plan should include who rides bikes and what their needs are. People have gone a quantum leap ahead in why they ride bicycles. Bicycles have evolved into a primary mode of transportation. What are the trends?

A. Celentano said is Woodstock would get into Transit Oriented Development, TOD. Vehicles are not being used 96% of the time. S. Hudson said Woodstock needs more infrastructure to make the town more conducive to cycling. C. Wenzel agreed and added that many neighboring communities are more bike-able than Woodstock is currently; they have more bike racks and bike paths. A. Celentano asked, as the Transportation Commission, how do we assist in designing a plan to make Woodstock more bicycle-friendly? From concept to design to implementation. Who rides? A. Celentano said messenger and delivery services are using bikes & mopeds. M. Indyke said messenger services are obsolete because we have the internet, etc. J. Osborne said we have police officers on bikes, they can respond differently to crowds and specific situations.

J. Osborne will come back with some stats. S. Hudson would like to see more stats on the safety issues. J. Osborne said the amount of fatalities has decreased because

emergency staff get to the scene faster and are able to get drivers to trauma centers, which are in close proximity.

At the next meeting in October, J. Van Landuyt will bring CIP information to the Commission member.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Update of Master Bicycle Plan – Chapter 3, October 2016 – changing to Chapter 2 for October meeting.
2. Loading & unloading Zones in the Downtown

Students are working on three projects, and possibly one more; a bridge between Woodstock North High School and Merryman Fields Park, a walkway between Dakota Ridge subdivision and Westwood Elementary School, and a sidewalk without steps on South Street. Students are not yet working on a possible Entertainment Venue.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson, to adjourn this Regular Meeting of the Transportation Commission. Ayes: C. Wenzel, M. Indyke, S. Hudson, J. Osborne and Chairman A. Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM until the next regular meeting of the Transportation Commission on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie
Chief Deputy City Clerk